

07-201

The Secretary of State presents her compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and refers to the Department's diplomatic note No. 07-125 regarding the services provided to the diplomatic and consular community by the Department's Office of Foreign Missions ("OFM"), including provision of diplomatic license plates. In the referenced note, the Department informed the missions of its plan to replace the current diplomatic license plates with a newly designed diplomatic plate.

The Department's Office of Foreign Missions wishes to inform the Embassies that beginning in November 2007, all mission personnel will be required to obtain the newly designed diplomatic license plates as their current license plates expire. In the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area this means that at the beginning of each month, owners of all mission and personal vehicles whose registration expires that month (and whose insurance is valid and where there are no unpaid parking fines) will be required to return the current diplomatic plates to the OFM Customer

Service Center located at 3507 International Place, N.W. in Washington. In exchange for the return of the old design plates, the mission will be given the newly designed plates with new registration card and decal. The expired license plates must be returned in order to obtain the newly designed license plates. OFM will place notices in prominent areas of the Customer Service Center notifying missions as to when the new plates will be available for pick up.

The process for the Consulates outside of Washington will be different than the registration renewal process currently in place. Beginning in November 2007, each of OFM's Regional Offices will be provided with the newly designed license plates associated with all the consular (mission and personal) vehicles whose registrations are to expire that month. (Details about OFM's Regional Offices, including the states each Office serves, may be found at www.state.gov/ofm/ro.) Each Regional Office will be provided with the new license plates, the registration cards and decals for vehicles located in its region. Consulates will be notified by each Regional Office of the procedure to be followed to exchange the newly designed plates, registration cards and decals for the old plates.

OFM will continue this process until all of the old plates are exchanged for the newly designed plate. Chiefs of Mission are reminded, as stated in the above referenced diplomatic note, that after December 31, 2008, the old license plates will no longer be valid and any vehicle displaying the old tag will be subject to citation and fines for failure to renew their registration as required.

The Chiefs of Mission are requested to inform their consulates of the above procedures and may direct questions or comments in this regard to the Office of Foreign Missions at (202) 895-3521.

Department of State,

Washington,

OCT 1 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line and a diagonal stroke.

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Draft:DS/OFM:MOzbek
(Circular Note NewPlates renewals
9-25-07 final) 9/10/07

clear:DS/OFM:CJNebel - *OK*
DS/OFM: RDBarton - *OK*
DS/OFM: JCMorningstar-ok
DS/OFM/NY-ok
DS/OFM/CH-ok
DS/OFM/SF-ok
DS/OFM/LA-ok
DS/OFM/HO - *OK*
DS/OFM/MI-ok
CC DS/OFM/ILG
Clear: S/ES-CR:NChagnon-ok